

FORGERIES

by Reg Powell

What about 'Forgeries' as a side-line to your Perfin collection? Forged perfin patterns exist for the few dies that in early days gained publicity through normal stamp catalogues, and those of the British Board of Trade and the Canadian Federal Officials are mentioned in recent publications (1) (2). But I am dealing with a forged overprint on a perfinned stamp, it is a KEVII ½d blue green with 'ARMY OFFICIAL' overprint and the 'H & L/L' perfin.

Stamps bearing official overprints would have needed no perfins, so do not feature in the book of reference (1). Nor were such Official stamps available for use by other agencies, so, I would expect this perfin of Hart and Levy Ltd., of Leicester to have been amongst the bunch of used stamps to which the overprint was applied. The overprint will be seen to differ markedly from either of the true types, so must be pronounced as a forgery. Indeed, the same pronouncement would have been made had the match been perfect, for the perfin truly serves as a security device.

Could this be the source of the perfinned overprints mentioned on p3 of issue 223 ?

(1) G.B. Official Perfins

by T. A. Edwards and B. C. Lucas, 1984.

(2) Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials

by J. C. Johnson and G. Tomasson 1985.